

REMARKS

Applicant's reply to the Office action mailed June 2, 2009 refers to a definition of the verb "to sinter." According to this definition, sintering requires that the powdered material coalesce without melting. Applicant retracts the arguments in support of the independent claims 20 and 33 to the extent that they rely on this definition of sintering and requests that the examiner should evaluate patentability of the claims without regard to whether sintering requires the powdered material to melt.

Respectfully submitted,

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